

CHATTANOOGA TIMES
23 September 1981

Colby Urges Support For Intelligence Units

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SEWANEE, Tenn. — Former CIA Director William Colby, speaking to a packed-house audience at the University of the South here Tuesday night, called for more "public support and understanding" for the nation's intelligence agencies.

"This is part of a citizen's duty in a country that belongs to him," Colby told students, guests and faculty members. "We have to move into this area to develop this type of public support."

Colby predicted that U.S. intelligence operations will improve in the 1980s and termed American intelligence "the best intelligence in the world."

Colby, now a Washington, D.C., attorney, gave a talk that spanned Pearl Harbor, the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and current growth of "super powers."

He said the need for a sharp U.S. intelligence system began with the bombing of Pearl Harbor when so much information about the pending Japanese attack was available, but hadn't been centralized.

"Information hadn't been brought to a central place," he said, hence the "Central Intelligence Agency."

America's second step in improving its intelligence system came with development of aircraft that "could fly higher and farther than anyone had to date," he said.

Recalling when U.S. pilot Gary Powers was shot down while in a spy plane over the Soviet Union in the '60s, Colby said, "During the three years that plane flew over the Soviet Union, it wasn't an exercise in idle curiosity."

He said the U.S. was saved from "nuclear Armageddon" when spy aircraft discovered those "funny shapes on Cuba" that turned out to be missiles during the Kennedy administration in 1962.

"It was an attempt by Khrushchev to change the balance of power," Colby said. "That was the closest we have come to nuclear Armageddon."

But Americans aren't satisfied with one or two changes in intelligence services, Colby said.

"American intelligence must work under American law and the Constitution," he said.

Colby hypothesized that the "orgy of recriminations" against the CIA and other intelligence gathering agencies began when the late President Dwight Eisenhower took responsibility for Powers' spy plane.

"Eisenhower took personal responsibility for the aircraft," he said. "There were a lot of sanctimonious statements made by various people. This came out as an attack as to how the CIA was managed."

The fact that Eisenhower took the blame for the spy plane, Colby said, made Americans look as if they were not serious in the eyes of foreign nations.

"These Americans seemed to put them (CIA operatives) on the front page every day," Colby said, mimicking a would-be foreign observer.

"For a few years we have wounded the eyes and ears of our intelligence services," Colby said. He said the CIA has new and innovative systems of "accountability and controls" including the watchful eyes of two Senate committees.

"Today it's clear . . . that more people have to be informed of the kind of intelligence that we have today," he said.

Colby said intelligence today begins with "that country that has enough power to destroy us and the entire world." He said growing super powers that could produce "another Khrushchev" will have to be closely watched in the near future by American intelligence.

"We are going to have to understand the nature of the threat," he said. He warned of the growth of China, developing its military, and the uncertain political future of Brazil, which "has a whole continent to expand."

But the most serious threat to American and world security, Colby said, is that two-thirds of the world populace is starving and looking for "tools and weapons to secure."

Those two-thirds see the "great American Satan," he said.

During a brief question-and-answer period following his talk, Colby was asked for comment on the fact that Americans had missiles in Turkey at the time the Russians had their own nuclear weapons in Cuba.

Colby responded by saying that "there was much fanfare and ado" about the matter, but "it just so happened that the American missiles were soon removed from Turkish soil after Russian weapons were taken from Cuba."

On a more personal matter, Colby was asked about "leakages" concerning his recently published book, *Honorable Men*.

Colby said when he finished the book, he submitted manuscripts to the CIA for review. "I made changes," Colby said, remembering CIA instructions, "and sent it to the publisher with instructions."

The problem of leaks occurred, Colby said, when a French publisher, for translation purposes, had received an advance copy of the work and published what was to be deleted. "It came out different in the French edition," he said.